

CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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September 1, 2004

California Performance Review Commission
Office of the Governor
Constituent Affairs
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioners:

This is to express my support for maintaining the positions of elected county superintendents of schools and county boards of education as well as raise my concern over the concept of rationalization. I believe that transferring the authority of the superintendent and the board to a regional office will not only reduce the effectiveness of the County Office of Education in provision of programs, services, and support but also negatively impact the education of the youth in Merced County.

Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) functions include critical services to the most needy children: students in court and community schools and students with disabilities. Other programs serving unique populations and needs include regional occupational programs, migrant education, court and community school, environmental education, independent study, and a charter school.

MCOE has and continues to work as a partner with the education community, preschool through university, as well as with local government, public service agencies, business, workforce development organizations, and parents to promote the education and welfare of youth and their families in Merced County.

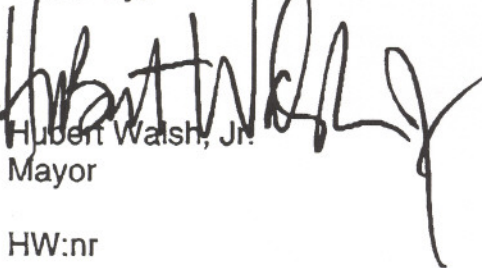
Fiscal and academic accountability are also critical functions of MCOE. District budget oversight is comprehensive. Teacher credentialing and training are provided.

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Administrator training and support are offered. Instructional resources are provided to districts.

The elimination of local elected officials who provide direction and oversight of MCOE activities will reduce the effectiveness, responsiveness and accountability of those functions. I feel it would also reduce the quality, quantity and responsiveness of education and youth services in the County. I urge the Commission to reject the CPR recommendation to regionalize K-12 education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hubert Walsh, Jr.", written over the printed name and title.

Hubert Walsh, Jr.
Mayor

HW:nr

cc: City Council